

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1910.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:-

I have much pleasure in presenting for your consideration my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of your district during the year 1910.

POPULATION AND HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

I have estimated the population at 3,700 that is, roughly, one individual to each acre. There ^{are} 762 inhabited houses and shops, giving an average of five persons to each house. Housing accommodation is still rather limited in amount, but is on the whole fairly good. I would strongly urge upon you to make it a rule that in future all new houses shall be built with water borne system of sewage. It has been demonstrated in your district, that this does not necessarily place the rent beyond the reach of the lowest wage-earning class. The Supervision of the Erection of new houses is good. No action has been taken under the " The Housing of the Working Classes Acts 1890 to 1909 ". The Sanitary Inspector has visited 700 houses in nine of which the Defective Drainage, or Sanitary Accommodation has been remedied at his suggestion.

BIRTHS.

I have pleasure in reporting a slight increase in the number of Births. The average for the past ten years is 22'51. Last year it was 21'87. This year it is 22'16. There were 82 Births, 43 Boys, and 39 Girls.

DEATHS.

During the year there were 32 deaths registered. 16 males, and 16 females, giving a death rate of 8'65

Last year the rate was 12'96, while the average for the past decade stands at 13'32. Seven deaths occurred in residents whose ages were over 70. Leaving out deaths occurring during the first 21 years of life, the average adult age at death is 56. This is a much lower figure than heretofore. The commonest cause of death was Senility with four cases, Pneumonia caused three deaths, Bronchitis two, Diabetes two, Heart Disease two, Meningitis two, Brain Tumours two, and two died by accident.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

It is very gratifying to be able to report a still further drop in the Infantile Death Rate. The average for the past ten years is 112'2. Last year it stood at 74. This year it is 60'97. Much good work is being done by the circulation of leaflets by the County Medical Officer, to the mother, as soon as the birth of her baby is registered, and I believe the improvement in this death rate is due to a more intelligent understanding of the ailments and requirements of early infant life. The causes of death were Convulsions one, Measles one, Thrush one, Rickets one, and Tubercular Meningitis one.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year there were recorded one case of Erysipelas, one of Typhoid, one of Scarlet Fever, and one fatal case of Diphtheria which had been brought in from a neighbouring district.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

This has not been opened during the year.

SCHOOLS

Buildings. I have much pleasure in reporting that extensive alterations and additions are being carried out in the St. Paul's School House, so that when these are finished the School Buildings will be quite up to modern requirements.

ATTENDANCE.

It has not been necessary to report to school closure during the year.

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The following letter has been received from the Medical Superintendent of Schools.

"I beg to inform you that the children attending the schools in the Township of Withnell have been medically examined in accordance with the requirements laid down by the Board of Education. The examinations have been made by a full time Medical Officer appointed by the Lancashire Education Committee. The Statistics however, are made up for the Education Area (District 14) and not for the respective townships in that Area."

SEWERAGE.

A very extensive system of works is now being laid down for the Sewage Disposal of the whole area. I shall have to give a full report on these at a later date.

SCAVENGING.

This work is done well.

ROADS.

Some of the roads have been straightened, widened, and improved. They are all well kept, and the streets are well lighted during the winter months.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply comes from the Liverpool Corporation's waterworks, and is always good, and plentiful.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Last year I suggested to you to consider the advisability of building a Public Abattoir, and in connection with it to have a goose-box, and a suitable room to hang meat in, and I believe this has been under your consideration during the

year under report. As it is a question of urgent importance, I would respectfully ask you to reconsider the proposal. In my Report last year I was able to state that a Meat Inspector had been appointed. This year I addressed the following questions to him, and I give here his answers.

Question.

Whether the Meat Inspector possesses any special certificate in Meat Inspection ?.

Answer

Yes. The Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Question.

How many Slaughter Houses are there in the District ?.

Answer.

Three - all on the Register.

Question

Whether out-buildings at all the farmhouses in the district can be used as Slaughter Houses, or if beasts for the food of man can be killed in the open air on farms?.

Answer.

Yes.

Question.

Whether Slaughter Houses are visited by the Meat Inspector at times of Slaughtering. ?.

Answer.

Yes.

Question.

Whether any, and if so, how many carcasses or parts of carcasses were found Tuberculous, and what action was taken in each case in which Tuberculoses was detected ?.

Answer.

Two carcasses of Tuberculous Meat were seized during the year 1910, and were buried under my Supervision.

FISH AND CHIP SHOPS.

These are always kept in excellent condition.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

There is nothing new to report under this head.

NUISANCES.

Fifteen notices were served, eleven were remedied and four are still under notice. No legal proceedings were necessary.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, and MILKSHOPS.

These are periodically inspected, and are in fair condition. There are 30 Cowkeepers, and 30 Dairymen, all named on the Register.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Owing to the generosity of a late member of your Council, I am able to report that a Public Baths is being erected with playing ground adjacent for children. Up till now, men who like to bath have walked to Lervin on Sunday morning, others have gone to Blackburn or elsewhere. I am sure, that when these well equipped and thoroughly up to date Baths with hot, and cold, and Swimming Bath are handed over to your Council they will be well patronised. As many of the Dwelling Houses are absolutely devoid of even the simplest appliances for washing, and cleansing, or for the supply of sufficient hot water for the smallest infant. I am extremely pleased that this good work has been taken up as it was the greatest need of the District, and I must congratulate you on this valuable addition to the Hygienic Equipment of the District.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

S. Walker Maclean.

Northwell